

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10

RSC-01 SIL-01 LAB-03 HEW-06 OPR-02 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

NIC-01 L-02 H-02 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 AGR-10 AID-05

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9402

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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UNCLAS GENEVA 7170

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: GENEVA BASED UN SYSTEM STAFF TO STRIKE NOVEMBER 29

REF: GENEVA 7163

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT NOON NOVEMBER 26,
EDWARD THOMPSON (ILO), PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION OF
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS' ASSOCIATIONS (FICSA)
AND KLAUS BRENDOW (FICSA SECRETARY), DISTRIBUTED
DECLARATION EXPLAINING BASIS OF PLANNED WORK
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STOPPAGE BY STAFFS UN SYSTEM ORGANIZATIONS IN

GENEVA, TEXT OF WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE ON FRIDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 1974, THE STAFFS
OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
IN GENEVA WILL STOP WORK FOR THE MORNING.

WE ARE DOING SO IN PROTEST AGAINST THE
FAILURE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROTECT OUR
PENSIONS AND OUR SALARIES AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF THE
INFLATION AND THE DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR.

HUNDREDS OF OUR PENSIONERS LIVING IN OR
NEAR GENEVA HAVE LOST 40 PER CENT OR MORE OF THE
PURCHASING POWER OF THEIR PENSIONS. MANY OF THEM
ARE SUFFERING SERIOUS HARDSHIP. THEY HAVE WAITED FOR
THREE YEARS FOR A SOLUTION - SO FAR IN VAIN. AND
WE, WHO ARE STILL SERVING OFFICIALS, VISUALIZE
OUR OWN FUTURE IN THEIR PRECARIOUS SITUATION.

PROPOSALS ARE NOW BEFORE THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF PENSIONS TO THE LOCAL
COST OF LIVING. THESE PROPOSALS WERE UNANIMOUSLY
AGREED ON BY THE JOINT STAFF PENSION BOARD -
REPRESENTING OFFICIALS, ADMINISTRATIONS AND OUR
LEGISLATIVE ORGANS. THEY WERE ENDORSED BY THE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EACH OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS. YET
THEY ARE MEETING RESISTANCE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
WE WANT THESE PROPOSALS ACCEPTED.

SALARIES OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS HAVE
NOT BEEN ADJUSTED SINCE 1971. CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCES
HAVE NOT BEEN ADJUSTED SINCE 1957. THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY HAS BEFORE IT MODEST PROPOSALS - PUT
FORWARD BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE ADVISORY
BOARD, A GROUP OF IMMINENT SPECIALISTS - WHICH WOULD
PROVIDE SOME SMALL MEASURE OF COMPENSATION FOR THE
PURCHASING POWER WE HAVE LOST. YET THESE PROPOSALS
ARE ALSO BEING OPPOSED BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING
THE UNITED STATES, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE
HEAD OF THEIR CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION WAS A MEMBER
OF THE BOARD WHICH MADE THE RECOMMENDATION. THESE
PROPOSALS ARE INSUFFICIENT IN OUR VIEW, BUT EVEN
SO THEY MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED.

WE ARE TIRE OF DELAYS, TIRED OF INACTION
AND INERTIA, TIRED OF BEING REBUFFED BY MISSTATEMENTS
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AND SPECIOUS ARGUMENTS. WE ARE TIRED OF HAVING OUR
CONDITIONS DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF THE SITUATION
IN NEW YORK, WHERE ONLY A MINORITY OF INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL SERVANTS WORK. WE WANT FULL AND EFFECTIVE
PARTICIPATION IN DETERMINATING OUR OWN CONDITIONS OF
WORK - BOTH FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE RECRUITED ON
THE SPOT AND FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE INTERNATIONAL.
WE WANT REAL NEGOTIATION WITH OUR EMPLOYERS - FOR OUR-

SELVES HERE IN GENEVA AND FOR ALL OUR COLLEAGUES
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD UNQTE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES, THOMPSON SAID THAT
IF FRIDAY'S DEMONSTRATION FAILS TO OBTAIN ITS
GOAL THE FICSA HAS IN MIND BIGGER AND BETTER
DEMONSTRATIONS, PICKETS AT GATT AND ILO, FOR
INSTANCE, BUT NO PHYSICAL EFFORT TO STOP ANYONE
FROM WORKING. HOWEVER, ANY WHO CROSS PICKET LINE
WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE QTE DESOLIDARIZED UNQTE
THEMSELVES FROM THE COMMON EFFORT AND IT
QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THEY SHOULD ENJOY ANY
BENEFITS ACCRUING FROM FICSA ACTION. ABRAMS

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